

South Farallone Island

March 29th 1859

Dear Brother

I received yours of Feb 18th and also Sarah's by the last mail and by the mail previous I received one from Father and one from you. I should have received Father's by the mail before that but I suppose it laid over somewhere on the route. I received the papers duly. but the letter did not get along until the next mail however it was none the less acceptable on that account I can assure you for letters from home are looked for by the inhabitants of the Farallones with more than ordinary anxiety.

We are "lingering" along here in about the usual way I try to make myself as comfortable as possible under the circumstances and find myself very often imagining the pleasures of home and the family fireside and picturing to myself the pleasures of the "good times coming" and you know it is said that "Distance lends enchantment to the view." and I don't know but it does for I have an idea that "the view" would almost blind me at first sight.

I received a letter from the "Lane" by the last mail, and now as our correspondence is "fairly established" I think I shall be the recipient of a "gentle missive" about every mail. I hope so far such articles are "very handy to have in the house" I can assure you. Those "hard feelings" are as gentle as a dove and I trust you will not pass any sleepless nights about them. I imagine she thinks none the less of you for your good offices in my behalf but on the contrary esteems you more highly and I certainly am under lasting obligations for the zeal and interest displayed in the performance of the delicate duties. I am glad you did not intimate anything about our correspondence to Charlie C... and I hope you will not to a single soul and if any of our family have a knowledge of the fact. I trust they will keep it a strict secret from any and all "inquiring friends." I think we have been the subject of tea-table-talk about long enough and it is high time there should be a "cessation of hostilities." Let them take up some new "candidate for public honors" some foreman more "worthy of their steel." I have been a target for them now for several years and had their efforts proved successful I should have been long ere this "made a riddle of" and now I think they should permit me in my "sere and yellow leaf" to retire on "half pay" I hope therefore if any or all of our family know of the correspondence it will remain a secret. Let it be only known in the two families most interested. I care nothing about it whatever on my own account for I have become completely callous to all their blows but she has been in time past made miserable by their contemptible howlings and I do earnestly hope that she may now be allowed to go on in the "even tenor of her way" and if my "particular friends" know nothing about it they will I hope give themselves less uneasiness about our affairs I have not confined myself above to strictly chaste language but it is true all of it and had I been speaking to you "in propria personae" I should probably have used language more forcible still. Denison's story is partly true but he has not heard the "other side" and there is not room in this letter for it. I may at some future time give you "A Stray Leaf from the Unpublished Mfs of a Retired Shellback" (vulgarly termed Sailor) Mr Ward is the man and a meaner scoundrel was never permitted to disgrace humanity. I know him to perfection. He is the very quintessence of meanness. But I hate to speak or think of him. I suppose



it just suited Denison. It was just the thing for a man of his calibre. He is another of my particular friends a man whom I utterly despise and have for years. He always abused me when at home every chance he had and I despise him for it and always shall. This is just what I think of Denison Noyes Esq. But if I continue in this strain. I fear I shall get excited so I had better I think "take it mild."

Give the enclosed slip to Father it will explain all about our rations. I have written to Charlie Chesebro by this mail as he is one of my old friends. Charlie is a good boy and I like him. He may perhaps show you the letter although I have requested him not to show it as I have not confined myself to the choicest language in it. Tell Sarah I am greatly obliged to her for remembering me and I trust she will "do it again."

Give my love to Grandmother and all the family and our little niece must not be forgotten and believe me as ever

Yours truly

Amos

Horace